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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): John Collinge

Serial No.: To Be Assigned  
(Continuation Application of 09/291,215)

Group Art Unit: 1655  
Examiner: A. Chakrabarti

Filing Date: Herewith (February 6, 2001)

Title: Diagnosis of Spongiform Encephalopathy

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of this continuation application, please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 11-12 17-25, 28-34. Please amend the claims 4-10 and 15-16 as noted on the attached sheet of paper. As required by 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3), the amended claims are rewritten with all changes included. As permitted under 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3), a clean version of the claims is submitted as single amendment paper, which is attached to this Preliminary Amendment. In addition, also attached, is the compare copy of the claims, marked to show all of the changes to the previous version of the claims.

With these amendments, claims 1-10, 13-16, 26, 27, and 34 are pending.

Please amend the specification by adding the Abstract of the Invention, which is also attached as a separate sheet of paper.

The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hale and Dorr, LLP

*Hollie L. Baker*

Hollie L. Baker  
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February 6, 2001

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